Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 ACDA-05 IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 SCCT-01 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /067 W

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P 121259Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5914

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 1555

E O 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER PERES -- GOI REACTION TO TEL AVIV

TERRORIST INCIDENT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. DEFENSE MINISTER PERES SPEAKING IN KNESSET MAR 11 INDICATED IN GENERAL TERMS THAT GOI HAS DRAWN UP PROGRAM OF INTENSIFIED SECURITY MEASURES IN WAKE OF MAR 5-6 TERRORIST ATTACK ON TEL AVIV SAVOY HOTEL. (FOLLOWING QUOTES COME FROM OFFICIAL GOI ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEXT.)

2. QUOTE: I WILL NOT GO INTO ISRAEL'S REACTON-NEITHER THOS IN THE PAST NOR THOSE REQUIRED IN THE
FUTURE. I WILL ONLY SAY THAT A PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DRAWN
UP FOR AN INTENSIFICATION OF SECURITY MEASURES AT SEA AND
LAND, WHICH FOR OBVIOUS REASONS I SHALL NOT DISCUSS HERE-AND THIS OF COURSE REFERS ONLY TO ONE ASPECT OF THE REACTION.
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END QUOTE.

3. IN ANOTHER SECTION OF KNESSET STATEMENT, PERES STATED THAT PREPARATIONS FOR ATTACK WERE CONDUCTED AT THREE LOCATIONS. TWO OF THEM IN SYRIA AND ONE IN LEBANON.

4. QUOTE: INSOFAR AS CONCERNS THEIR MUSTERING AND DE-PARTURE POINTS, A DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE BETWEEN THE PLACES CHOSEN FOR THEIR TRAINING (THE NAVAL ARM UNDERWENT TRAINING-- INCLUDING DIVING INSTRUCTION-- IN EGYPT, LIBYA. ALGERIA AND SYRIA) AND THE PATH OF THEIR PROGRESS TOWARDS PEPETRATION OF THE CRIME: THE GROUP COMMENCED ITS TRAINING AS A TEAM, IN MID-JANUARY THIS YEAR, AT THE FATAH TRAINING BASE AT DUMA (TEN KILOMETERS EAST OF DAMASCUS), AND AT THE END OF THE MONTH IT WAS TRANSFERRED TO A TRAININ BASE OF THE NAVAL ARM IN LATAKIA. WHERE IT TRAINED FOR ABOUT A FORTNIGHT, BEING TRANSFERRED IN MID-FEBRUARY TO A FATAH BASE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, WHERE INSTRUCTION IN THE ART OF BARGAINING FOR HUMAN LIVES WAS COMPLETED. IT WAS FROM THERE, TOO, THAT THE GROUP EMBARKED IN TWO RUBBER DINGIES TOWARDS THE FATAH-, OWNED SAILING BOAT, WHICH-- IN TURN-- HAD SET OUT FROM BEIRUT. END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTICAL. COMMENT:

SOME PRESS COMMENTARIES IN RECENT DAYS HAVE BEEN URGING GOI TO GO ON OFFENSIVE IN WAR AGAINST TERROR RATHER THAN SIMPLY RESPONDING TO INCURSIONS OCCURING AT TIME AND PLACE CHOSEN BY TERRORISTS. WE BELIEVE IT VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT ISRAELI'S WILL RETALIATE IN SOME FORM. RESPONSE HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY LATE IN COMING, HOWEVER, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF SECRETARY'S PRESENCE IN THE AREA.

 $6.\,\mathrm{FULL}$ TEXT BEING POUCHED TO ALL ADDRESSEES. KEATING

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Subject: DEFENSE MINISTER PERES -- GOI REACTION TO TEL AVIV TERRORIST INCIDENT

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006